

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 9, 11, 12 and 19 are amended. Claims 21 and 22 are added.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Okuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,380,689). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, from which claims 3-8 and 10 depend, recites that, "a duration for writing to each pixel and a duration for setting the organic electroluminescent element for each pixel to the reverse-bias state are separately set." Support for this recitation can be found in the application in connection with Fig. 6 and the accompanying written description. In contradistinction, Okuda applies a reverse-bias during the address period, the writing period. Okuda discloses in connection with Figs. 3, 8 and 14, that V_e is supplied during the address period.

Claims 2, 9, 11, 12 and 19, from which claims 13-18 and 20 depend, contain recitations similar to the recitation previously mentioned in connection with claim 1. Therefore, these claims are allowable for reasons similar to the reasons previously specified in connection with claim 1.

Further regarding claim 2, the Office Action treats claim 2 in combination with claim 1 in the rejection. However, the subject matter claimed in claim 2 is not the same as the subject matter in claim 1. This should be apparent from a comparison of the language contained in claims 1 and 2. However, the Office Action's discussion in connection with claims 1 and 2 only addresses the features contained in claim 1. To the extent that claim 2 differs from claim 1, the Office Action fails to address those differences.

More specifically, claim 2 recites, "a reverse-bias setting circuit which sets organic electroluminescent elements contained in a predetermined area, from among the organic electroluminescent elements, to a reverse-bias state . . ." (emphasizes added). This feature is

clearly distinct from the subject matter of claim 1. Okuda fails to disclose, teach or suggest a reverse-bias setting circuit which sets a predetermined area from among the electroluminescent elements according to the claimed combination. Claim 12 also recites, "a predetermined area, from among the electro-optical elements". Therefore, claim 12 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 2.

Further regarding claims 5 and 6, the Office Action again treats those claims together in the rejection. However, the subject matter of claim 6 is clearly distinct from the subject matter of claim 5. Claim 5 recites, "a pixel-by-pixel basis". In contradistinction, claim 6 recites, "a line-by-line basis". The discussion of claims 5 and 6 in the Office Action only addresses a pixel-by-pixel basis of control. The Office Action fails to address the line-by-line basis of control recited in claim 6. It is respectfully asserted that Okuda fails to disclose one switch for controlling each line of pixels as claimed in claim 6. Thus, the apparatus disclosed in Okuda is incapable of controlling a reverse-bias state on a line-by-line basis from a single switch as claimed. Okuda neither teaches or suggests anything to overcome this deficiency.

The Office Action similarly combines claims 15 and 16. However, a similar analysis will demonstrate that the subject matter of claim 16 is differentiated from the subject matter of claim 15 in a manner similar to the distinctions drawn between claims 5 and 6 above. Thus, a similar analysis will demonstrate that Okuda fails to disclose the subject matter claimed in claim 16.

Still further, the Office Action combines claims 7-8 and 17-18 with the analysis of claims 5-6 and 15-16. However, claims 7 and 17 recite, "a single switch for all pixels". Again, the Office Action's discussion of a pixel-by-pixel basis of control in Okuda fails to address the distinct subject matter claimed in claims 7 and 17. Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that Okuda fails to disclose, teach or suggest the combinations as claimed in claims 7 and 17.

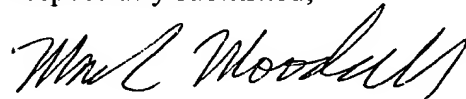
For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-20 based on Okuda be withdrawn.

Claims 21 and 22 are allowable for reasons similar to those previously stated in connection with claims 1-20.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2, 6-7, 12 and 16-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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